
From: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 11:02 AM
To: Manley, Jennifer (DPH)
Cc: Lyons, Tom (DPH); Han, Linda (DPH)
Subject: Press inquiry - DPH Drug Laboratory in Amherst

Jennifer,

Below is a request from an ABC affiliate station in western Massachusetts, to interview chemists in the Amherst Drug Laboratory. By way of background, this lab was considered for closing as part of the FY10 budget cuts. There was some newspaper coverage of that possibility in the Springfield Republican and other papers in the spring. I am guessing that this request is a follow-up to that coverage.

I instructed Jim Hanchett, the Supervisor of the Amherst Laboratory to refer the reporter to you. Feel free to contact me if you have questions,
Julie Nassif

Julianne Nassif

Director, Division of Analytical Chemistry
William A Hinton State Laboratory Institute
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
305 South Street Boston, MA 01230
voice 617-983-6651 fax 617-983-6662
julianne.nassif@state.ma.us

From: Hanchett, James (DPH)
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2009 10:16 AM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Subject: FW: ABC40 Inquiry

Hi Julie,

Here is WGGB request.
Thanks,

Jim

From: WGGB Assignment Desk [mailto:assignmentdesk@wggb.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 8:45 PM
To: Hanchett, James (DPH)
Subject: ABC40 Inquiry

Mr. Hanchett:

We recently read the story in the Gazette on the lab receiving a one year reprieve so to speak, from the budget cuts. From what we have read, it appears some of that stems from the concerns over the Swine Flu or H1N1 virus.

We were wondering if we could come up and talk to you or someone from the lab, discuss how you have been saved for one more year, what kind of work you all perform, and what kind of void any possible closure of this lab would cause in Western Mass.

We were wondering if you would be willing to do it sometime Thursday, during the day (between 11a-1:30p).

If you could let us know either way, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,
Ryan Trowbridge
Assignment Manager
WGGB ABC40 / FOX 6 News